

REMARKS

The Abstract has been amended, as required by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to better define the invention over the prior art, and claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 15 have been amended to employ more idiomatic English and better clarify the invention.

No new matter has been entered.

Turning to the rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-15 under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Beamish (U.S. Patent No. 6,404,863), claims 1 and 9 have been amended to specify that the telephone set includes a handset and a speaker external to the handset, the speaker or a voice receiving section of the handset being used to continuously notify the user of an awaiting state. Beamish does not teach this feature. Beamish teaches a speaker on a handset (FIG. 1). Thus, Beamish cannot anticipate claim 1 or claim 9, nor any claims dependent therefrom.

Turning to the rejection of claims 8 and 13 as obvious over a combination of Beamish and Kung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,635), claims 8 and 13 are dependent on claims 1 and 9, respectively. The deficiencies of Beamish vis-à-vis claims 1 and 9 have been discussed above. Kung et al. does not supply the missing teaching to Beamish to achieve or render obvious claims 1 and 9 or claims 8 and 16, which depend thereon. Kung et al. relates to teaches a call manager that manages multiple calls received by a subscriber (Abstract). Nowhere does Kung et al. teach a speaker external to a handset or a voice receiving section of a handset that informs a user of an awaiting state. Thus, no combination of Beamish and Kung et al. could achieve or render obvious claim 8 nor claim 16.

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Turning to the rejection of claims 1 and 9 as anticipated by Furukawa et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0009073, accompanying this Amendment is a Verified English Translation of Applicant's underlying Japanese Application, thereby perfecting the Japanese priority date of May 18, 2000. Since Furukawa et al. has a U.S. filing date of April 5, 2001, Furukawa et al. is effectively removed as §102(e) art. Thus, it is believed the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 9 as anticipated by Furukawa et al. has been overcome.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

A credit card authorization Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$950.00 for payment of the fee for Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time accompanies this Amendment. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

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